



# Maryland & Delaware

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report

CW24-08

09/15/2008

### Maryland crops improving, Delaware still dry

Western and Central portions of Maryland as well as the lower Eastern Shore reported improved field conditions and good crop development following several rain showers over the last week. Delaware, however, reported continued dry conditions even with rainfall received last Tuesday. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.2 in Delaware and 5.8 in Maryland for the week ending September 14, 2008. Soil moisture was rated short to adequate in Delaware with some still rated very short. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in Maryland. Pasture conditions in Maryland were rated fair to good while Delaware was rated very poor to poor.

Alfalfa hay harvest continued in both States. The third cutting was nearly complete and the fourth cutting was still progressing with 52 percent complete in Maryland and 28 percent complete in Delaware. Harvest of other hay continued. The corn harvest was under way in Delaware. Corn condition in Maryland was fair to good, in Delaware, mostly fair. Corn progress improved for all stages over the previous week. Crop weather reporters in Delaware said that early soybeans were hurt by the continued dry spell over the summer. Early planted soybeans had no pods or poorly filled pods. Growers also expressed concern about pod worms and whether the benefit of aerial spraying would outweigh the high cost of application. Maryland soybean quality ranged pretty evenly from very poor to good, though the highest percentage was rated as good. In Delaware, soybeans quality was mostly fair.

No problems were reported with the vegetable or fruit harvest. The apple harvest was 20 percent complete in Delaware and 59 percent complete in Maryland with good quality. Peach harvest was nearly complete and was a little ahead of the same time last year. Harvest of all the major fruit and vegetable crops continued as the season was winding down.

#### CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Item	Maryland				Delaware			
	This	Last	Last	5 Year	This	Last	Last	5 Year
	Week	Week	Year	Average	Week	Week	Year	Average
Alfalfa Hay, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	99	98	95	93	98	93	100	97
Alfalfa Hay, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	52	36	68	46	28	23	35	40
Apples, harvested	59	56	63	50	20	18	41	36
Cantaloups, harvested	93	90	95	93	96	94	90	92
Corn, dough	99	95	0	17	100	100	71	91
Corn, dent	88	80	94	86	95	91	98	94
Corn, mature	68	47	67	57	75	59	77	72
Corn, harvested for grain	27	23	19	12	15	10	18	22
Corn, harvested for silage	65	45	0	48	50	10	0	58
Cucumbers, harvested	91	89	91	88	90	87	85	88
Lima Beans, harvested	61	58	63	68	58	49	53	63
Other Hay, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	76	71	54	62	61	56	71	87
Other Hay, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	10	8	7	7	1	1	0	10
Peaches, harvested	98	90	96	95	98	94	94	93
Potatoes, harvested	100	99	99	94	98	94	78	91
Snap Beans, harvested	90	89	91	93	89	86	95	95
Soybeans, setting pods	95	86	86	86	92	86	87	92
Soybeans, turning color	48	33	44	32	26	18	40	29
Soybeans, dropping leaves	28	18	15	12	19	13	21	16
Sweet Corn, harvested	92	89	92	92	93	88	93	89
Tomatoes, harvested	91	87	91	89	89	83	90	88
Watermelons, harvested	94	93	96	92	95	92	90	93

#### CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Item	Maryland					Delaware				
	VP	P	F	G	EX	VP	P	F	G	EX
	Percent					Percent				
Apples	0	1	17	79	3	2	5	16	68	9
Corn	2	16	39	34	9	7	21	46	17	9
Pasture	3	23	41	30	3	35	48	13	3	1
Soybeans	20	21	24	29	6	13	32	44	8	3

VP-Very Poor, P-Poor, F-Fair, G-Good, EX-Excellent

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Maryland					Delaware			
Condition by Percent	Topsoil Moisture		Subsoil Moisture		Topsoil Moisture		Subsoil Moisture	
	This	Last	This	Last	This	Last	This	Last
	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week
Very Short	1	8	6	15	13	28	40	45
Short	31	26	43	36	45	33	53	47
Adequate	67	64	51	48	42	39	7	8
Surplus	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Station	Precipitation <sup>1/</sup>			Temperatures			
		Since Jan 1					
	Total		Depart				Depart
	this		From				from
	Week	Total	Normal	High	Low	Average	Normal
<b>Maryland</b>							
Baltimore/Washington AP	0.88	30.67	2.91	88	55	73	-1
Frederick	1.40	32.81	6.35	87	57	70	2
Frostburg	2.98	37.33	4.28	85	54	64	-2
Hagerstown	0.87	23.42	-2.79	88	57	71	0
Mechanicsville	0.57	31.38	0.57	88	60	72	-1
Patuxent River	0.63	30.54	1.84	89	65	75	3
Ocean City	0.08	24.56	-6.92	90	56	76	4
Salisbury	0.76	27.80	-3.74	90	48	74	1
Sharpsburg	1.08	31.74	5.18	89	54	70	2
Stevensville	0.20	35.68	6.93	87	58	72	-2
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	0.67	33.53	7.35	92	68	77	2
<b>Delaware</b>							
Dover	0.34	23.06	-6.95	89	55	73	-1
Georgetown	0.18	19.19	-11.43	93	54	76	4
Wilmington	0.06	25.52	-2.37	87	57	73	1

<sup>1/</sup>Precipitation totals as of 7 A.M. on recorded date.  
Weather data is provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Auburn, Alabama and is considered preliminary.

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50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(410) 841-5740 Fax (410) 841-5755

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